

U.S. Rice Producers Association,
U.S. Rice Producers' Group,
U.S. Wheat Associates,
Wheat Export Trade Education Com-
mittee,
Zeeland Farm Soya.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent there be a period of morning business for the transaction of routine morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE MARRIAGE PENALTY TAX

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on the issue of the marriage penalty. Today, the House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly, 270-158, in favor of eliminating the marriage penalty tax. Unfortunately, that doesn't mean it is going to become law because the President has vetoed the bill, and even the overwhelming margin of 270-158 is not enough to override the President's veto.

So 21 million American couples are going to have to suffer an inequity in the Tax Code again this year. They are going to have to suffer and pay \$1,400, average, in taxes just because they decided to get married. If two people, a policeman and a schoolteacher, get married, they get hit the hardest because they suffer from the marriage penalty tax.

I am very proud of the House of Representatives for trying to override the President's veto. I am proud that they spoke overwhelmingly, even though it was 20 votes shy of the two-thirds majority that was necessary. But we need to fix the marriage penalty tax. We need a President who will sign marriage penalty relief, and we need a President who will work with us to have real tax relief for the citizens of our country who are working so hard to make this economy great.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

THE AWARDING OF THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM TO SENATOR GEORGE MCGOVERN

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today with great pride and satisfaction to address an occasion of great significance that occurred during the Senate's August recess. On August 9, President Clinton awarded the highly prestigious Medal of Freedom to former United States Senator George McGovern. This medal is the very highest award presented to civilians by the United States Government, and is an honor that is richly deserved.

Throughout his long and remarkable career, George McGovern has distinguished himself as a scholar, a political

leader, a humanitarian and a person of extraordinary integrity. A generation of American political leaders still define themselves as McGovern Democrats." At Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, South Dakota, George McGovern effectively emphasized the great importance of public service and civic involvement. As President Kennedy's Director of Food for Peace he helped launch our nation's commitment to combat world hunger. On the floor of the United States Senate, McGovern was a powerful voice for rural America, for our nation's disadvantaged, as well as for an end to the Viet Nam conflict. Today, as ambassador to the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization in Rome, Ambassador McGovern has continued his work on nutrition and has articulated a visionary plan for a world school lunch program.

As my colleagues are very aware, Senator McGovern won the Democratic nomination for President of the United States in 1972 in what turned out to be an unsuccessful presidential campaign. Historians will long ponder what the course of American history might have been if that campaign had turned out differently. But we don't have to wait for the judgment of historians to know George McGovern's life has had an incredibly important and lasting impact on America and the world. George continues to persevere and his commitment to a better planet continues to shine.

We in South Dakota understandably feel a profound pride in the life and career of George McGovern—a son of a South Dakota minister, a military hero, a national political leader, and a diplomat of the highest order. I extend my enthusiastic congratulations to Senator McGovern and wish he and his family the very best as he continues his critically important work in Rome.

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, it has been more than a year since the Columbine tragedy, but still this Republican Congress refuses to act on sensible gun legislation.

Since Columbine, thousands of Americans have been killed by gunfire. Until we act, Democrats in the Senate will read the names of some of those who have lost their lives to gun violence in the past year, and we will continue to do so every day that the Senate is in session.

In the name of those who died, we will continue this fight. Following are the names of some of the people who were killed by gunfire one year ago today. September 13, 1999: Jonathan Holmes, 32, Detroit, MI; Edward Luckenbill, 51, Louisville, KY; Adrian Offutt, 19, Louisville, KY; Finnis Parron, 31, Houston, TX; Sherlyn Robinson, 37, Houston, TX; Unidentified

Male, 29, Norfolk, VA; and Unidentified Male, 43, Norfolk, VA.

We cannot sit back and allow such senseless gun violence to continue. The deaths of these people are a reminder to all of us that we need to enact sensible gun legislation now.

MARKETING VIOLENCE TO CHILDREN

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, the Senate Commerce Committee held a hearing today on the critical issue of the entertainment industry's marketing of violent material to children. While I am not a member of the Senate Commerce Committee, I appreciated Chairman MCCAIN and Ranking Member HOLLINGS giving me the opportunity to share my perspective as the parent of three children and some insights on the issue I have gained from a series of youth violence meetings in South Dakota.

In response to the numerous school shootings around our country, I've held a series of roundtable discussions in South Dakota with parents, students, school officials, and local law enforcement. I heard repeatedly from parents and students themselves that no one believes that explicitly violent movies, video games, or music are the sole causes for violence among our nation's youth. However, South Dakota students acknowledged that the entertainment industry has a large influence on their daily lives, and South Dakota parents specifically asked for additional resources they can use to help keep violent material out of their children's hands.

My wife, Barbara, and I recently accompanied our youngest child to her first day at college. Seeing our daughter settle into her new home in the freshman dormitory brought feelings of sadness at the inevitable passage of time. Barbara and I also were relieved, in a sense, by the fact that our daughter's first day of college also marked the successful completion of her childhood. I can sympathize with the parents of children just entering their teen years who are concerned that it will be increasingly difficult to keep objectionable material from their sons and daughters as they grow up.

That is why I am troubled by the results of the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) Report on the Marketing of Violent Entertainment to Children. As you know, the President asked the FTC to investigate two simple questions: Do the movie, music recording, and computer game industries market to young people products that contain violent content in a way that undermines the ratings they themselves apply to their products? If so, is that target marketing intentional? According to the recently-released FTC report, the answer to both questions appears to be yes."